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Ornamental Crab Tree

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Ornamental Crab Tree

Poised like fists
balled up
in deep maroon gloves
the tiny blossoms
hang ready to explode.

Then
on the right warm day
you come up the walk
and are knocked senseless
stunned by fragrance
and the soft explosion
of a thousand red fists
in your face.

Every year you
walk into it again
chin first
always a sucker
for the same old
punch.

David Schelhaas

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